

E.6

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES' BIOLOGY AND LIKELIHOOD-OF-OCCURRENCE ANALYSIS

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The following information provides an explanation for conclusions regarding likelihood of occurrence. The brief synopses of biology are provided as limited background only, and no attempt has been made to compile or summarize all potentially relevant information on the species.

This appendix addresses all species with applicable special regulatory or management status that includes the study area within their general range and for which grossly appropriate habitat is present in or near the study area. Conclusions here are limited to biology, with no reflection of regulatory or management issues. For interpretation of this information under applicable laws, regulations, and court precedent, see the relevant portion(s) of the report. Judgments regarding likelihood of occurrence are based on an evaluation of all available biological information regarding regional and local conditions, species' biology, and the study area and vicinity as well as professional experience from conducting field investigations across California over many years.

Specific factors substantially affect likelihood of occurrence for individual species in any particular study area. These factors are relevant for multiple scales, including regionally, locally, and within the study area, and involve the presence or absence of particular species (e.g., predators, prey), climate, ongoing disturbances, historical land use, and other past disturbances, which may be related to fire history, surface and subsurface hydrology, soil texture and chemistry, study area and habitat size and topology (i.e., shape and fragmentation), past population fluctuations of the species in response to random and nonrandom events, and many other factors, including many not readily visible. Note that some species, including many birds and bats, can occur in multiple roles. Thus, likelihood of occurrence, habitat use, and abundance may vary accordingly. Where multiple codes are given for a species, underlined codes refer to the likelihood of occurrence in potentially constraining roles (e.g., with respect to birds, breeding, as opposed to migration or dispersal, for many state species of special concern).

Terms for Likelihood of Occurrence in the Study Area

NONE: Given the available information, it is judged that the species does not occur. This determination is based on some combination of these facts: 1) The study area is clearly outside the current range based on available information and/or 2) the study area does not contain suitable or extensive enough habitat (including any adjacent off-study area habitat) to hold the species, or the species is confirmed to be absent based on negative results of a focused survey for the species conducted in appropriate habitat at appropriate time(s) of year, using biologically sound methods and qualified personnel. Further evaluation should not be required at this time.

VERY LOW: Although remotely possible, the probability of occurrence in the study area is almost none, and the likelihood of meaningful use is less than reasonable. The species may include the study area within its general range; however, no appropriate or adequately extensive habitat was found (either on or immediately adjacent to the study area). Neither the species nor any indication of its presence was detected. In some cases this likelihood may indicate that, based on the best available information, the study area has a very high probability of being outside of the species' current range. In all of these cases, the species cannot be definitively ruled out but is strongly expected to be absent based on the best available evidence. In some cases, the species may occur on rare occasions and in very low numbers, but such stray individuals are unlikely to make more than very brief, incidental use of the study area. Certainly there are no substantial populations utilizing the study area at any time of year. Further evaluation should not normally be required.

LOW: The species is unlikely because of some combination of facts: 1) It was the subject of unsuccessful searches conducted under reasonable circumstances, 2) only marginal or minimal habitat is present, 3) the best available information suggests the species is absent from the study area, and/or 4) available information sheds no clear light on the species' likelihood in the study area, but it is known to be rare, at best, in the vicinity. No individuals were detected, nor was there any direct indication of them. Although individuals may have been missed, it is unlikely that substantial populations are present. Further evaluation should usually not be required for individual species except, in most cases, for threatened or endangered species. Note, however, that where several non-listed species hold this status, a much higher likelihood of occurrence for "one or more" will generally hold. This is due both to the increased number of species and the fact that an array of possibilities often correlates with greater alpha diversity and lower actual disturbance levels.

MODERATE: The study area is within the range of the species and appears to contain appropriate habitat. Although no individuals or diagnostic signs were detected, it is nevertheless reasonable that some individuals were overlooked. The best available information on the species with regard to the study area is either very uncertain or is about equally weighted for and against occurrence. Depending upon local and special legal status, extent of habitat, and the nature and sensitivity of the project, focused surveys for the species may be warranted, or its presence may be assumed.

HIGH: The study area is known to be within the range of the species and appears to contain habitat with substantial potential for occupancy. Although no individuals or diagnostic signs were detected, it is judged likely that it is present to some degree, given the best available information. Depending upon regulatory status, local rarity, public interest, extent of habitat in the study area, and the nature of potential project impacts, a substantial basis may exist for either conducting focused surveys for the species or for assuming presence.

VERY HIGH: Given the best available information, the study area is within the current range of the species and sufficient very appropriate or characteristic habitat is present in or contiguous with the study area for occupancy. Although individuals and/or diagnostic signs were not definitely detected at the current time, it is judged to be very highly likely to occur. In some cases the species may be known to have occurred in the study area historically or in the recent past, with no clear basis to assume extirpation since then. In rare cases, changes off of the study area (e.g., fire or other disturbance) may provide a basis to assume current presence as a result. Although focused surveys for this species would be required to absolutely confirm presence or absence, such surveys are judged to have a very high probability of confirming presence. Without such surveys, presence should generally be assumed.

CONFIRMED: Confirmed present by a qualified biologist or other highly reliable source, and there is no specific evidence that the species is now absent. Depending on the species and other information available, it may or may not be possible to determine what portions of the study area are currently in use without further studies.

ABSENT: Confirmed to be absent in the study area as a practical matter. Most often, this is a determination based on negative results of a focused survey for the species conducted in appropriate habitat at appropriate time(s) of year, using biologically sound methods and qualified personnel. In the remaining cases, it may be based on a simple study area examination for species and study area contexts where it is easily determined that the species is absent (for example, a tidal marsh insect and a dry mountainside study area or a disturbance-intolerant chaparral shrub where the study area is a long-standing, degraded grassland far from chaparral). The relevant field work was also, in all cases, conducted within a time frame sufficiently recent to conclude that the species remains absent based on study area conditions and the species' known ecology. In most cases a specific, established survey protocol and/or guidelines have been followed.

Table E.6-1. Status Code Explanations

<i>Status Code</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
FE	Federally Endangered
FT	Federally Threatened
FPE	Federally proposed Endangered
FPT	Federally proposed Threatened
FC	Federal Candidate species
FW	Federally “warranted for listing, but listing is precluded by higher priority actions”
EPA	Covered under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
SE	State Endangered
ST	State Threatened
SR	State Rare (used for plants only)
SCE	State Candidate for Endangered listing
SCT	State Candidate for Threatened listing
SSC	State Species of Special Concern
CFP	California Fully Protected species
CSP	California Specially Protected species
CNDDDB	Tracked by the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database but with no other special regulatory or management status
1A	California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1A plant (plants presumed extinct in California)
1B	CNPS List 1B plant (plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere)
2	CNPS List 2 plant (plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere)
3	CNPS List 3 plant (more information is needed about this species).
P	“pt” or “pd”: The taxon has been formally proposed to be down-listed, either from Endangered to Threatened (“pt”) or delisted completely (“pd”)

Table E.6-2. Special-Status Species Information

<i>Species/Natural Communities</i> ¹	<i>Special Status</i> ²	<i>Occurrence</i> ³ <i>Likelihood</i>	<i>Comments</i> ⁴
PLANTS			
Aphanisma (<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i>)	1B	None	Annual herb; habitat includes sandy soils in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub at 1 to 305 meters elevation. These types of vegetation communities are absent from the study area.
South Coast Saltscale (<i>Atriplex pacifica</i>)	1B	None	Annual herb; habitat includes coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and playas at 0 to 140 meters elevation. These habitats are absent from the study area.
Parish's Brittlecale (<i>Atriplex parishii</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in the San Pedro quadrangle. Annual herb; associated with chenopod scrub, playas, and vernal pools at 25 to 1,900 meters elevation. Such habitats are absent from the study area.
Davidson's Saltscale (<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i> davidsonii</i>)	1B	None	Annual herb; found in alkaline soils within coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub vegetation communities at 10 to 200 meters elevation. Habitat absent from study area.
Lewis's Evening-Primrose (<i>Camissonia lewisii</i>)	3	None	Not recorded in the San Pedro quadrangle; annual herb found in sandy and clay soils of coastal bluff scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal dune, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland at 0 to 300 meters elevation. No such habitats are present within the study area.
Southern Tarplant (<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i> australis</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in the San Pedro quadrangle; an annual herb found at the margins of marshes and swamps, in mesic valley and foothill grasslands, and in vernal pools at elevations of 0 to 425 meters. No potentially suitable habitat is present within the study area.
Orcutt's Pincushion (<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i> orcuttiana</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in the San Pedro quadrangle; annual herb found in sandy soils associated with coastal bluff scrub and coastal dunes at elevations of 0 to 300 meters. No habitat is present within the study area.

<i>Species/Natural Communities</i> ¹	<i>Special Status</i> ²	<i>Occurrence³ Likelihood</i>	<i>Comments</i> ⁴
Salt Marsh Bird's-Beak (<i>Cordylanthus maritimus</i> ssp. <i>maritimus</i>)	FE, SE, 1B	None	Not recorded within the San Pedro quadrangle; annual herb that is found in coastal dunes and coastal salt marshes and swamps at 0 to 30 meters elevation. A small amount of coastal salt marsh is present at the Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh. Although, historically, this area was an expansive salt marsh/mudflat complex prior to World War II, all that remains is the 3.25-acre Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh, which was constructed in 1982 (LAHD and EDAW 1982). Given the historical disturbances to the area, relative isolation, and artificial construction of marsh, no potential for the species is judged present.
Catalina Crossosoma (<i>Crossosoma californicum</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle; perennial deciduous shrub found in rocky chaparral and coastal scrub at elevations of 0 to 500 meters. No potential habitat is present within the study area.
Beach Spectaclepod (<i>Dithyrea maritima</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle; perennial herb that is associated with coastal dunes and coastal scrub at 3 to 50 meters elevation. No habitat present in study area.
Island Green Dudleya (<i>Dudleya virens</i> ssp. <i>insularis</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle; perennial herb found in rocky coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub at elevations of 5 to 300 meters. Potential habitat absent from study area.
Coulter's Goldfields (<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle; annual herb that inhabits coastal salt marshes and swamps as well as playas and vernal pools at elevations of 1 to 1,220 meters. Only extant salt marsh present within the study area is at Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh. This marsh was created in 1982, and given the time lapse between historical wetlands to the area (prior to World War II) and the isolated conditions of the created Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh, no potential for the species is judged present. Vernal pools and playas are absent from the study area.
Santa Catalina Island Desert-Thorn (<i>Lycium brevipes</i> var. <i>hassei</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in the San Pedro quadrangle; perennial deciduous shrub found at elevations of 10 to 300 meters within coastal bluff scrub and coast scrub. No potential habitat is present within the study area.

<i>Species/Natural Communities</i> ¹	<i>Special Status</i> ²	<i>Occurrence</i> ³ <i>Likelihood</i>	<i>Comments</i> ⁴
Prostrate Navarretia (<i>Navarretia prostrata</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle. Annual herb found in coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools; typically associated with alkaline soils and mesic soil conditions at 15 to 700 meters elevation. Single record for species within geographical region is dated 1882 and from Wilmington (CDFG 2005). In addition, the freshwater marsh located at the 22 nd Street/old tank farm open space is far too degraded and disturbed to provide potentially suitable habitat for this species. Soils adjacent to the marsh are compacted and have been “amended” with asphalt, concrete, and gravel.
Coast Woolly-heads (<i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>denudata</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle; annual herb found at 0 to 100 meters elevation in coastal dunes. Habitat absent from the study area.
Lyon’s Pentachaeta (<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>)	FE, SE, 1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle; annual herb associated with chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands at 30 to 630 meters elevation. No potential habitat within study area.
Brand’s Phacelia (<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in the San Pedro quadrangle; annual herb found at 1 to 400 meters elevation within coastal scrub and dunes. No potential habitat present within study area.
Estuary Seablite (<i>Suaeda esteroa</i>)	1B	None	Not recorded in San Pedro quadrangle; perennial herb found in coastal salt marshes and swamps at elevations of 0 to 5 meters. Only extant salt marsh is at Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh. This marsh was created in 1982 and isolated from other salt marshes. Given the conditions by which the marsh was created, along with it being isolated, the species is judged absent from the study area.
ANIMALS			
Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly (<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis</i>)	FE	None	Species limited to a single small population at the former Palos Verdes Navy housing area located directly north of the Defense Fuel Supply Point in San Pedro. Associate with coastal sage scrub. Potential habitat absent from study area, and species not known from other locations.

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Monarch Butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	CNDDDB	Moderate as migrant only	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (gum trees, Monterey pines, cypress) with nectar and water sources nearby. Small numbers expected to migrate through study area in fall. No potential roost sites within study area.
Tidewater Goby (<i>Eucuclogobius newberryi</i>)	FE, SSC	None	Historically, the Los Angeles basin provided shallow, brackish lagoon habitat suitable for the tidewater goby. Currently, however, this area is a gap between Santa Monica (in western Los Angeles County) and Aliso Creeks (in Orange County) populations (USFWS 2004). The study area contains no habitat suitable for the species, and there is no designated federal critical habitat for this species (Federal Register 65 [224:69693-69717]) in the study area.
Green Sea Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	FT	Very Low as transient	Has been observed sporadically in the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor areas (http://www.mxsocal.org/oldweb/hspappendh.htm).
Leatherback Sea Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	FE	Very Low as transient	Has been observed sporadically in the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor areas (http://www.mxsocal.org/oldweb/hspappendh.htm).
Loggerhead Sea Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	FT	Very Low as transient	Has been observed sporadically in the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor areas (http://www.mxsocal.org/oldweb/hspappendh.htm).
Olive Ridley (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)	FT	Very Low as transient	Has been observed sporadically in the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor areas (http://www.mxsocal.org/oldweb/hspappendh.htm).
San Diego Coast Horned Lizard (<i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei</i>)	SSC	None	Inhabits coastal sage scrub and chaparral in arid and semi-arid climate conditions; prefers friable, rocky, or sandy soils. Potential habitat absent from study area.
Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as migrant and winter resident only	Southern California is outside species' breeding range; species has been documented within the study area during fall, winter, and spring (MEC 2002).

Species/Natural Communities ¹	Special Status ²	Occurrence ³ Likelihood	Comments ⁴
California Brown Pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>)	FE, SE, CFP	Confirmed as year-round nonbreeder	Species uses the Port of Los Angeles (Port) for foraging and roosting only; breeds on the Channel Islands and islands off the coast of Baja California (LAHD 2004).
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as year-round nonbreeder	This colonial piscivore (fish-eater) is an uncommon transient and winter resident in coastal Southern California, especially at major rivers and lakes with undisturbed shallows. Species is known to forage and roost within the Port year-round. Breeds along the coast and on the Channel Islands in undisturbed settings.
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as migrant and wintering resident nonbreeder	Diet consists almost entirely of fish. It was formerly a common and widespread breeder in Southern California (Grinnell and Miller 1944) but no longer breeds regularly in California anywhere south of northern San Francisco Bay (Small 1994). Declines are directly attributed to environmental pollution, with secondary causes including harassment by fishermen, disturbance at nest sites, and loss of habitat quality (including increased turbidity and fish stock declines in some rivers). Species is known to forage in Los Angeles Harbor waters for fish; roosts on tall, undisturbed poles, tree snags, etc.
White-tailed Kite (<i>Elanus leucurus</i>)	CFP	Low as migrant; nonbreeder	A bird of prey that hunts in open country. It is found across most of California. Nests are located low in trees and large shrubs near foraging areas in savannahs and at edges between open habitat and woodland or forest areas; vulnerable to human disturbance, especially during nesting. Species is not recorded in the Port area and is not likely to occur except as a rare, brief migrant.
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	FT, EPA, SE, CFP	Very Low as migrant nonbreeder	Species eats mainly fish and carrion and formerly nested locally along the coast of Southern California. It is now a very localized winter resident and rare migrant, with only very rare breeding efforts in coastal Southern California (e.g., Lake Skinner, Riverside County). Within the Port an individual may occur in some years during migration and/or winter. Coastally, the species is known to nest on Santa Catalina Island.

Species/Natural Communities ¹	Special Status ²	Occurrence ³ Likelihood	Comments ⁴
Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	SSC	Low as nonbreeding migrant	This small raptor specializes in hunting small birds and winters widely and fairly commonly in California, including urban settings. It is a rare breeder south of northern San Luis Obispo County and then only in high-elevation forest and riparian habitats. Within the study area this species is likely to occur sporadically as a migrant or winter visitor.
Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	SSC	Low as nonbreeding migrant	This medium-sized hawk is a specialist in hunting small birds in close quarters. It winters widely and fairly commonly in California as birds breeding to the north move in. In Southern California, Cooper's hawks breed primarily in woodland habitats, especially riparian zones, but also oak woodland, walnut woodland, gum trees (<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.), and occasionally in dense, abandoned or otherwise undisturbed orchards. Within the study area this species would likely be an uncommon visitor.
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	SSC	Low as nonbreeding migrant	This is a falcon that breeds only to the north and east of California and winters here sparsely. Like larger falcons, such as peregrine falcons, merlins specialize in hunting birds in open country, especially wetlands and extensive grasslands next to trees. Within the study area it is reasonable that this species could occur uncommonly as a migrant and/or brief winter visitor.
American Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	SE, CFP	Confirmed	This subspecies of peregrine falcon formerly bred over most of North America. It was listed as a federally endangered species on 13 October 1970 and as state endangered on 27 June 1971. The species is currently undergoing a slow, steady recovery and, again, breeds in small numbers through much of the non-desert portions of California. Habitat at all seasons is primarily areas with accessible open water and high densities of prey species such as ducks and shorebirds. The American peregrine falcon was formally delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act on 25 August 1999 (USFWS 1999) as were individuals of all other subspecies occurring within the range of this subspecies. The species as a whole remains listed as endangered at the state level throughout California. This species is known to nest within the Los Angeles

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			and Long Beach harbor areas. The nearest known nesting location to the study area is the Vincent Thomas Bridge; the species may forage any where water birds and pigeons concentrate and, thus, may range widely when foraging.
Light-footed Clapper Rail (<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>)	FE, SE	None	This subspecies of clapper rail is restricted to the lower elevations of coastal marshes with active tidal flow. No substantial seasonal movements occur, although rare individuals wander away from known breeding locales. The population trend at this time is uncertain, but nearly all remaining populations are vulnerable to extirpation due to nonnative predators, human disturbance, poor water quality (especially due to siltation of marshes from upland runoff), and habitat degradation and loss. Within the study area the only possible location for the species is the Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh. The marsh vegetation within Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh is far too small to support a clapper rail. This species is judged absent from the study area.
Western Snowy Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>)	FT, SSC	Confirmed as nonbreeder	Breeding habitat requirements include open, relatively flat areas with little or no vegetation. This includes undisturbed beaches, salt flats, playas, dredge spoils, levees, and even river bars. Food is virtually entirely aquatic or terrestrial invertebrates, which is typically captured through active observation, running, and then gleaning from the ground surface of tidal mudflats. Causes of decline are loss and, especially, intensive human disturbance of nesting areas as well as the introduction of nonnative predators. The federal listing of threatened applies only to populations less than 50 miles from the nearest point of the Pacific Ocean. Along the Southern California coastline this species is much more “common” as a migrant and winter visitor than a breeder; it can be found foraging and roosting along undisturbed beaches, lagoons, and estuaries. Within the Port, this species is an occasional visitor to Pier 400 during the tern breeding season (May through August) (Keane Biological Consulting 2004), with use of the study area expected to be limited to beach and mudflat habitats for foraging and roosting.

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Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as nonbreeding migrant/winter visitor	Within Southern California, this species occurs as a spring/fall migrant and/or winter visitor along beaches and mudflats. This species is known to occur within the harbor as an infrequent transient.
California Gull (<i>Larus californicus</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as nonbreeder	This gull breeds in large colonies east of the Sierra Nevada mountains and in San Francisco Bay; it is one of about a dozen species of “seagulls” that winter in and migrate through coastal Southern California. Concentrations occur along the coast, on major rivers and lakes, in open landfills, and at parks with duck ponds. This species is confirmed to occur as a nonbreeder within the study area, with highest numbers during fall/spring and winter. This species is expected to forage and roost within the study area.
Black Skimmer (<i>Rynchops niger</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as breeder	This species breeds at Pier 400 in small numbers (Keane Biological Consulting 2004) and is expected to forage within the study area. This bird skims along surface coastal waters for fish and can be seen feeding along quiet, protected waters as well as in open nearshore waters. Based on MEC (2002), this species is most common to the Port in July and August when post-breeding dispersal from larger breeding colonies occurs along the coast. The lowest number of individuals was recorded in May–June and October–January.
California Least Tern (<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>)	FE, SE, CFP	Confirmed as breeder	This subspecies of least tern historically bred in scattered, mostly small colonies along the coast from Monterey Bay south into Baja California. Today they breed in far fewer colonies, which are heavily managed to control predators and human disturbance, from San Francisco Bay (Alameda County) south to a few sites along the Pacific Coast of Baja California, Mexico. Most individuals breed at a few relatively large colonies in coastal Southern California, including Pier 400 in the Port. They are extremely rare more than a few miles offshore or inland, except for occasional foraging at favorable fresh or brackish water locations. Winter distribution is unknown but presumed to be open ocean off of Central America or South America; there are no winter records for California. The species feeds by

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			<p>diving for small surface fish. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designates the breeding window as 15 April through 15 September; occasional individuals are seen as early as the beginning of April. Colonies are located near the ocean shoreline (within 0.5 mile [about 800 meters]), typically on nearly flat, loose sandy substrates with lightly scattered short vegetation and debris, although some colonies have been located on hard-packed surfaces, even unused asphalt. Colony sites must provide access to the shoreline for juveniles and must be relatively free of predators. Documented predators include an extremely wide range of hawks, falcons, owls, shrikes, and mammals, even herons and ground squirrels. The species is vulnerable due to its colonial nesting in a conspicuous, frequently disturbed habitat, along with its small size and dependence on small fishes whose populations vary greatly from year to year. Threats include loss and degradation of nesting and foraging habitat, direct disturbance from humans and pets, and increased predation risks due to the introduction of nonnative predators and increased reliance on a few large colonies rather than many small, less conspicuous sites. With intensive management, recent population trends are upward. In 2004, an estimated 951 pairs of least terns nested at Pier 400, with 1,042 nests documented. In general, breeding success at this colony is above average compared to other colonies within Los Angeles and Orange counties. Although the breeding colony is technically just outside the study area, this species is expected to use the aquatic environs heavily within the study area for foraging from April through August.</p>
Elegant Tern (<i>Sterna elegans</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as breeder	<p>This tern forages in coastal and offshore waters, including nearshore, bay, and estuarine situations where it feeds strictly on fish by aerial predation. Within the Port, elegant terns breed at Pier 400, with an estimated 10,170 nests recorded in 2004 (Keane Biological Consulting 2004). The harbor and study area is expected to provide important forage for breeding adults and dispersing juvenile. The species is expected to occur from April through October, but individuals can be seen in most months.</p>

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Tufted Puffin (<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as nonbreeder (rare)	This seabird is a rare occurrence within Southern California coastal waters, but an individual was recorded in 2000 (MEC 2002). Any sighting of this species is expected to be a rare occurrence.
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	SSC	Confirmed as nonbreeder at Pier 400; none within study area	This small owl is unusual among birds of prey in utilizing underground burrows. Burrowing owls are widely but thinly scattered through much of the western United States into southern Canada, with a disjunct population in Florida and the Caribbean. Generally, they use burrows already dug by fossorial mammals, such as ground squirrels, but can also use natural cavities and even man-made structures such as piles of concrete or openings at the base of structures. Declines have been due to a variety of factors, including direct persecution, habitat loss, and control of both prey species and animals that create burrows. Within the Port an individual burrowing owl was relocated from Pier 400 in 2004 (Keane Biological Consulting 2004). During the current field work for the project, the open lands within the study area were carefully checked for potential habitat, including ground squirrel burrows. Based on current conditions within the study area, potential habitat is absent.
Vaux's Swift (<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>)	SSC	High	Swifts spend most of their lives in flight, hunting small insects. Vaux's swifts nest in snags in old-growth forests from central California to southeast Alaska (as well as in Mexico southward) and winter from central Mexico to northern South America. They are fairly common as spring and fall migrants in Southern California. Within the study area this species is expected to occur occasionally in fall and spring when the species is migrating to southern wintering grounds or northern breeding grounds.
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	SSC	Confirmed	This species typically hunts in sparsely vegetated lands with perches for scanning and fairly dense shrubs/brush for nesting (Small 1994). An individual was recorded during the current field work for the project at the 22 nd Street/old tank farm open space. It is likely that a pair of this species nests within the brush lining the adjacent cliffs and forages in the remaining open lands within the close vicinity.

Species/Natural Communities ¹	Special Status ²	Occurrence ³ Likelihood	Comments ⁴
Coastal California Gnatcatcher (<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>)	FT, SSC	None	This species is an “obligate” resident of coastal sage scrub. No potential habitat occurs within or adjacent to the study area.
Western Yellow Warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>)	SSC	Moderate as nonbreeding migrant	Within the Southern California coastal zone, breeding habitat for this warbler is found in riparian woodlands. Although the breeding habitat for this species is riparian, migrant yellow warblers during spring and fall can be found in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from arid coastal sage scrub to urban landscaping (e.g., gum trees). Within the study area this species is expected to be limited to migrants in spring and summer, and only a small number of individuals is expected. No breeding habitat is present.
Belding’s Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>)	SE	Confirmed transient visitor	<p>This subspecies of savannah sparrow is a locally common nonmigratory resident of coastal salt marsh. It is distributed from northwestern Baja California north to Santa Barbara County. This subspecies was formerly numerous and widespread within this restricted range, as noted by Willett (1912): “Abundant resident of the salt marshes along the coast.” In some places it extends inland into alkaline marshes as much as 8 miles (about 12.9 kilometers), but all known localities are within 100 feet (about 30.5 meters) elevation above mean sea level. It is an obligate breeder in middle-elevation salt marshes, nearly always characterized by pickleweed (<i>Salicornia</i> spp.), either in tidal situations or non-tidal alkaline flats nearby. Although the majority of its subsistence stems from the salt marsh and closely adjacent mudflat, individuals, particularly post-breeding birds, can be found foraging in a wide variety of habitats, including upper marsh, adjacent ruderal and ornamental vegetation, open beach and mudflat, and even dirt and gravel parking lots.</p> <p>During fall, winter, and spring, several other species of savannah sparrow occur in the same areas as Belding’s, with complete overlap in habitat use (though the migrants remain more common in uplands). Migrants may be present within the range of Belding’s from at least late August through early April. With good views of individual birds, a knowledgeable and experienced observer may</p>

Species/Natural Communities ¹	Special Status ²	Occurrence ³ Likelihood	Comments ⁴
			<p>reliably identify savannah sparrows as Belding's or non-Belding's under field conditions. Non-Belding's savannah sparrows were recorded during the current field work.</p> <p>The breeding season for Belding's savannah sparrow has been estimated as mid-March to mid-July, though some young may fledge and remain dependent into August. Primary threats to the subspecies are loss and degradation of middle-elevation coastal salt marsh, disturbance, and predation.</p> <p>Belding's savannah sparrow is not recorded within the study area or Los Angeles Harbor. The last documented sighting occurred in 1984 within Long Beach Harbor where an individual was observed (LAHD 2002). The small amount of pickleweed present within the Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh is not sufficient to support this subspecies. It is expected that if this species were to occur within the study area, it would be extremely rare and brief.</p>
Tricolored Blackbird (<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>)	SSC	None	<p>This species nests colonially in freshwater marshes with dense stands of cattails and/or bulrushes and occasionally in other riparian-associated thick brush (Small 1994); foraging during nesting occurs in open lands with sparse vegetation in the vicinity of the nesting colony. At other times of the year this species can be found in flocks, foraging in open, expansive, sparsely vegetated lands. Within the study area it is conceivable that the species could occur but it is highly unlikely given the surrounding urban setting and the limited open space present within the study area.</p>
California Western Mastiff Bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	SSC	Low	<p>In Southern California this subspecies of mastiff bat is found throughout the coastal lowlands up to drier, mid-elevation mountains. Habitats include dry woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, and occasionally even developed areas. This big bat forages in flight. They are active at night year-round and are documented to travel more than 15 miles (24 kilometers) in foraging bouts. Roost sites may be in natural rock or in tall buildings, large trees, or elsewhere but must be at least 2 inches</p>

Species/Natural Communities ¹	Special Status ²	Occurrence ³ Likelihood	Comments ⁴
			(5 centimeters) wide and 12 inches (30 centimeters) deep and narrow to, at most, 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) at their upper end. Nursery roosts must be deeper yet. All roosts open well up on a cliff or other steep face, at least 6.5 feet (2 meters) vertically above the substrate, to allow flight from the roost. Roosts may be communal (with up to 100 individuals) or solitary, commonly including other species of bats. Within the study area this species has not been documented; however, it is possible that roosting habitat may include crevices or compartments in buildings or warehouses.
Big Free-tailed Bat (<i>Nyctinomops (=Tadarida) macrotis</i>)	SSC	None	This species of bat is nearly restricted to Mexico, with small numbers of incursions recorded in the developed portions of western San Diego County, with a few additional records elsewhere in the state. The species will roost in high rock crevices and cliffs and forage primarily on large moths, especially over water. Habitats are arid, with particular preference for rough, rocky country. An individual of this species was collected in Long Beach in 1983. The species is a rarity at best and is not expected to occur within the study area.
Pacific Pocket Mouse (<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>)	FE, SSC	None	This subspecies is an obligate resident of fine-grained sandy soils of coastal strands, coastal dunes, river and marine alluvium, and coastal sage scrub in close proximity to the ocean; it has never been collected more than 2 miles (about 3 kilometers) from the coast or above 600 feet (about 180 meters) elevation. No potential habitat for this species is present within the study area.
San Diego Desert Woodrat (<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>)	SSC,	None	This is a medium-sized native rat locally common in a variety of sunny shrub habitats, frequently in rocky and/or steep terrain and upper drainages. Sage scrub communities are frequently occupied, but other communities are also used as suitable microhabitats. Potentially suitable habitat for the species is absent from the study area.

Species/Natural Communities ¹	Special Status ²	Occurrence ³ Likelihood	Comments ⁴
NATURAL COMMUNITIES			
Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	CNDDB	Confirmed	A 0.3-acre freshwater marsh is located within the study area at the 22 nd Street/old tank farm open space. This marsh is highly degraded and isolated. Refer to Section 3.3.2.9.4 for further details.
Southern Coastal Salt Marsh	CNDDB	Confirmed	A 3.25-acre coastal salt marsh is present at Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh. It was created in 1982 and is vegetated by nonnative and native vegetation in the uplands and native pickleweeds (<i>Salicornia virginica</i> , <i>S. subterminalis</i>) and saltgrass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>) along the periphery of the intertidal mudflats. The shallow waters provide spawning and nursery areas for fish, and a variety of water birds are expected to regularly roost and/or forage within the marsh throughout the year. Refer to Section 3.3.2.9.4 for further details.
Mudflat	CNDDB	Confirmed	Mudflat is considered a special aquatic site pursuant to the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines (40 CFR 230). Within the study area, mudflat habitat is limited to two locations: Berth 78, Ports O'Call, adjacent to the fish market (0.175 acre), and within the Salinas de San Pedro Salt Marsh (0.87 acre). Refer to Section 3.3.2.9.4 for further details.

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